

Message Text

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43/13

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 SCEM-02 EB-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 IO-12 NEA-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 OPIC-12 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

INT-08 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01 /163 W

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R 221750 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8900

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 04272

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN 04272 I/ O 44272

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EEC, IT

SUBJECT: PETROLEUM: ITALIAN VIEWS ON CONSUMER COOPERATION

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AMB FUNKHOUSER AND EMBOFF MET MAY 17 AND 18 WITH MFA, ENI AND ESSO REPS TO DISCUSS THEIR PARTICULAR VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL AND ITALIAN ENERGY SITUATION AND CONSUMER COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. MFA SPOKESMAN VANNI (CHIEF ENERGY OFFICE) DREW DISTINCTION BETWEEN POSITION OF EUROPE AND US IN WHICH FORMER UNFORTUNATELY WILL NEVER HAVE POSSIBILITY OF SELF- SUFFICIENCY IN ENERGY AS DOES US. FOR THIS REASON, RELATIONS WITH PRODUCING COUNTRIES AND CO-ORDINATION WITH OTHER CONSUMERS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO EUROPEANS

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AND PARTICULARLY ITALIANS WHO HAVE STRONG INTERESTS IN MEDITERRANEAN. VANNI EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE IN PAST OIL HAD BEEN MERELY A COMMERCIAL MATTER, NOW BECOMING INCREASINGLY POLITICIZED. SUCH NECESSITATES GOVT INVOLVEMENT IN STRUCTURING NEW CONSUMER-PRODUCER

RELATIONSHIPS IN VIEW GROWING INABILITY OF INTERNATIONALS TO FULFILL TRADITIONAL BUFFER ROLE. VANNI ACKNOWLEDGED DIFFICULTY IN ARRIVING AT SINGLE FORMULA FOR CONSUMER GOVTS TO DEAL WITH PRODUCERS, GIVEN WIDE SPECTRUM OF BOTH CONSUMER AND PRODUCER VIEWPOINTS. HE EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF CONCRETE AND FRANK DISCUSSIONS ON THE PROBLEM AMONG CONSUMER IN CONFIDENTIAL OECD FRAMEWORK.

3. REGARDING ATTITUDES ITALIANS HOPED US WOULD TAKE, VANNI URGED SYMPATHETIC VIEW TOWARD ECD DISCUSSIONS ON 1) RELATIONS WITH PRODUCERS, 2) SHARING OF SUPPLIES IN EMERGENCIES, AND 3) OVERALL ROLE OF THE OIL COMPANIES, INCLUDING THEIR GROWING DIFFICULTY IN FINANCING ENORMOUS INVESTMENT REQUIREMENTS. VANNI FELT THAT BASIC AGREEMENT AMONG CONSUMER COUNTRIES THAT OIL HAS INDEED BECOME A POLITICAL PROBLEM WOULD FACILITATE FRUITFUL OECD DIALOGUE.

4. VANNI DESCRIBED CONCEPT OF "APPROVED COMPANIES" IN EC COMMISSION PAPER AS AN ULTIMATE GOAL, BUT TOO SPECIFIC AT THIS POINT. HE ACKNOWLEDGED A DIVERGENCY OF VIEWS AMONG EC MEMBERS ON THE SUBJECT. VANNI EXPECTED THAT MAY 22 EC MEETING -- THE FIRST COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO ENERGY -- WOULD BE EXPLORA-

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ROME04272
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730551/aaaajpjo.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 07 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980226
Subject: PETROLEUM: ITALIAN VIEWS ON CONSUMER COOPERATION
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BRUSSELS
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Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005